

CA^. Z7JJ] DEATH AND AFTER-LIFE.
333

According to them, it was only out of
God's Love, that
we were born and only for God's sake that
our bodies must
die, and we, set free from the bondage of
corruption, shall
wing our flight into those realms of joy and
glory which
His loving Heart is surely preparing for us.
It is this which
rcaUv explains everything, which teaches
us not to dread
D^a'h afc all but to greet it as God's sweet
messenger sent
to call us to a brighter home. Says Saint
Kabir, " The Guru
is one ; and life a id death, union and
separation, are all His
plays of joy." Death is therefore not an
occasion for grief
and lamentations but an opportunity for
devout and reveren-
tial, though hea-t-heavy thanks-giving to
Him.
Death will be more welcome to us than life
itself when
we feel and realise that the senses, the
sentiments, the
instincts, the perceptions, manifested in
this body are only
a feeble instalment of the thousand other
faculties, which
will burst on the expectant soul, when the
bonds of the flesh
fall a.vay at last. The activities, the
aspirations, the develop-
ments, the maturities, all remain, though
their fleshy garments
are cast away. Other forms, other senses,
other media shall

be given to us by the Supreme Being
surpassing the earthly
gifts, as the powers of the full-grown man
surpass those
of the infant. Greater than the joy that
enraptures the born-
blind at the sudden unveiling of midday
glory, greater than
the wonder that transports the born-deaf
and mute when the
sudden strains of divine music pour into
their silent souls,
will be the light, rapture and sense that
animate the devout
souls in their passage from this life to
immortality.

Says Saadi, the Sufi poet: When you
are born you
come crying while all around are smiling;
but when you
die, see to it that you die smiling while all
around are
sobbing. Death is loss only unto those left
behind, not unto
the pilgrim himself who has gone or has to
go ahead. Indulge
thyself, it is not life to live ; but give
thyself, it is not death
to die," As Alexander Pope has put it in
one of his terse